

in the midst of a financial crisis—the worst possible time to make those choices.

These men and women who expressed their concerns about America are good people. They have been using the phrase I thought was interesting, that Pete Domenici, the former Senator from New Mexico and former chairman of the Budget Committee said: “I have never been more afraid for my country.” I have never been more afraid for my country. That is the heart and soul of the people who stood up in this last election who are concerned about their country. It is the establishment—the go-along, the no-change, the people in denial, we can’t cut spending, it will never work, no matter what we do it won’t make any difference.

I thank the Chair. I see my colleagues here. I will be pleased to yield the floor.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to add my voice to those who have spoken on this Chamber floor this afternoon to express frustration and concern about where we are as our Federal Government seems to be moving inexorably toward a shutdown this evening.

As I have worked hard with my staff here in Washington and at home to help them prepare for and explain to the people whom I represent what is going on here and why, I have struggled. I have genuinely struggled to understand why this impasse is leading, I think now inevitably, toward a government shutdown. I still remain hopeful we will be able to find some resolution in these last few hours. But I think it is critical the people of the United States understand the consequences of a government shutdown.

This isn’t just about sending home Federal employees. This is going to have a significant impact on our economy, on our recovery, on working families all over this country, and I think on our reputation around the world. At a time when many of us are standing up and saying the United States and our system of democratic capitalism is a model other nations should follow, our inability as a Congress—the House and Senate working together—to reach a responsible consensus on what we all agree is one of our top priorities is profoundly frustrating to me.

I was elected by the people of Delaware and sent here to deal with three things: to try and get our private sector going again, creating high-quality, good jobs for the people of Delaware and our country; to deal with our significant deficit and our dramatic na-

tional debt and the very real challenge to our future posed by them; and to try and do it in a responsible and balanced and bipartisan way. In my view, at this point in this budget fight, from everything I have been able to hear from the press and from the leadership of my party here in this body, it has stopped being about cutting the deficit and has instead turned into a fight about ideology. If I understand correctly, as of last night at the end of the negotiations, they moved from having 60 riders, so-called, on the bill that would fund the Federal Government for the rest of the year, to down to just 1 or 2.

I thought one of the good things that came out of the 2010 election was a broad-based focus—particularly by some of the tea party, but lots of folks in our country who were upset with how Washington works—a broad-based focus to stop having bills that were loaded up with lots of riders and lots of extraneous things and to try and have commonsense legislation that is easy to understand and that does what it is meant to do. This, as I understand it, is no longer about the deficit and about the budget. We are not being asked to consider whether we should cut \$70 billion or \$72 billion or \$78 billion; we are instead being asked to agree to defunding title X.

Title X, a program that goes back to 1970, was enacted and signed into law by President Nixon and provides a remarkable range of health services to women all across this country. In my State of Delaware, there are 26 community health centers that are funded by title X. Just five of them are affiliated in some way with Planned Parenthood.

I wanted to come to the floor and take a moment to focus on what title X funds: preventive health services, contraceptive services, pregnancy testing, but also screening for cervical and breast cancer, screening for blood pressure, anemia, diabetes, basic infertility, health education, and referrals for other health and social services. I know and have visited several of these health centers in my State. They provide services to folks who otherwise have no access to basic health care. If I understand correctly, what has happened in this body is that we have come down to being willing to shut down the entire Federal Government over this one issue of ideology. I am embarrassed and ashamed on some level that we can’t get this resolved.

As I understand it, the folks who came to Washington seeking aggressive deficit reduction and spending cuts in this fiscal year have achieved virtually all of their objectives. I think the initial goal was \$100 billion. My understanding, as the Presiding Officer heard as well in our caucus lunch, is that we have agreed to up to \$78 billion in cuts in this fiscal year across the board in lots of different sources of discretionary as well as other programs that can be cut this year. That is a hard concession for folks who support government action in our community and in our society to accept.

But I think one of our challenges is for the folks who may be on the other side of this debate to hear “yes,” to accept that we have come almost 80 percent of the way to meeting their initial goal, and to instead recognize that I think this has long since turned into a fight over ideology—over the narrow issue of women’s health.

Let me give one last example, if I can, of what this means in my hometown. My Senate office in Delaware and I have been working hard for several months to follow on the example of my predecessor in this seat, Senator Ted Kaufman of Delaware, and host a job fair on Monday, from 9 to 4, at the single biggest public space in Delaware, the Riverfront Arts Center. We are going to host a job fair. We have 50 employers lined up ready to interview people. We expect more than 1,000 out-of-work Delawareans to show up, resumes in hand, ready to interview and, hopefully, to be hired. If I understand the rules right, if the Federal Government shuts down tonight, my staff can’t carry out this job fair on Monday.

Job one for me, and I think job one for all of us in this Chamber, is helping our private sector, helping small businesses, helping our communities connect good jobs with the folks who are out of work and seeking employment. Fortunately, in our case, we have scrambled and worked hard the last few days. The Governor of Delaware, our Department of Labor, the Delaware economic office, and other volunteers have worked hard and stepped up to make sure this job fair comes off on Monday just fine without interruption.

We need to be focused on reining in the deficit and the debt, dealing with our long-term budget, and getting folks back to work.

In conclusion, it is my hope that as a body we can come together in a commonsense way. If we need to have a vote on the floor, if we need to have a fight about access to health care for women in title X, let’s have that debate, but this should be a discussion today about the deficit and about funding the operations of the Federal Government for the year ahead. I look forward and hope we can turn back to that very real work and not instead have a fight about ideology and access to women’s health.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

COTE D’IVOIRE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first of all, I wish to compliment my good friend, Senator COONS from Delaware, for something he has done recently along with Senator ISAKSON as the chairman and the ranking member of the African Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. They have responded to my request to have a hearing on the tragedies and

what is taking place right now in Cote d'Ivoire.

Let me mention, there is only one thing I take issue with in the letter that has gone out to make the request. One sentence says:

Mr. Gbagbo has sought to forcefully thwart the will of the Ouattaran people and his forces, reportedly, including mercenaries, who have targeted innocent civilians, including women, as well as United Nations missions.

I only want to get into the RECORD—I have already done this. I have given three very lengthy speeches about what is happening over there. I have been there, I am sure, more than any other Member of the Senate. I would say that if you read the Guardian, the British Guardian, in their—I am quoting now—two big slaughters have taken place, one in a small western town called Duekoue and another in Abidjan, the capital. The article says:

The UN mission said traditional hunters, known as Dozos, fought alongside Ouattara's forces.

Let's keep in mind who we are talking about here. The President, who has been now for the last 10 years, has been President Gbagbo, Laurent Gbagbo, and the person who had run against him 10 years ago, and then this time, and who was declared to be winning the election, is Alassane Ouattara. Anyway, they are talking about Ouattara in this case.

The UN mission said traditional hunters, known as Dozos, fought alongside Ouattara's forces and took part in killing 330 people in the western town of Duekoue.

Then the Red Cross weighed in and they came in with a new count. They said they are responsible for 800 who have been killed. Recently—and I certainly want my friend from Delaware to know this—I have talked to close friends of mine who are in Abidjan now. Abidjan is where the bad things are happening. I hope anyone who questions the fact that it is Ouattara's forces that are creating the problems in Abidjan access my Web site and pull up the YouTube video that was taken of what happened on what I call "Black Monday," Monday night, when they went out with helicopters and they mowed down thousands of people. We don't have a death count of how many people have been murdered in the last 5 days.

This could not have been the former President—or maybe he is still the President—in fact, he is, since he has not been replaced, President Gbagbo. It is factual that he had no one in the field, so as of an hour ago, I have had reports that these forces, Ouattara's forces, are going around knocking on doors and murdering people, stealing everything in the houses and then burning them down. Yet no one can go out and even move bodies out of the streets because they will get shot by snipers. Are those President Gbagbo's people? No. He doesn't have anybody. He is hunkered down in the basement trying to save the lives of himself and

I think 15 of his relatives along with his wife Simone.

I only want to say while I am very happy we are going to have the hearings, it is going to be necessary—I have witnesses. I have one witness whose name is Mel Phiodore. Mel is actually the head of the opposing party to Gbagbo.

He is the one who actually ran against him for President one time and lost. He is currently a Parliament member. Yet he is defending him, saying he is the one who is right in this case and they stole the election. This needs to come out.

I will make one comment. I am equally troubled. I tried to explain to people in Oklahoma how all these billions and trillions of dollars we talk about really affects the people who pay the taxes. Back during the time we spent on the floor trying to defeat the efforts of the EPA in their cap-and-trade efforts, the costs put on there were between \$300 billion and \$400 billion. I recommend particularly to some of the new Senators to count the number of tax returns the families file in their States, and then do the math. In that case, that would have cost—if they had been able to continue, and right now they are trying to continue, or if any of the legislation had passed cap and trade, that would have cost each family who files a tax return in Oklahoma \$3,100 a year.

When we start equating that to some of the numbers floating around, it is just—I remember so well coming here and standing at this podium in 1995 when Bill Clinton was President. He came out with his budget for fiscal year 1996, I think. It was a \$1.5 trillion budget. I was outraged and said we can't do that, it is not sustainable. Yet this last budget from the Obama administration has deficits that are higher than \$1.5 trillion. In other words, the deficits are higher than the amount it took to run the entire country of the United States of America in 1996.

It is something that everybody knows is not sustainable. We looked at these large numbers, and we know it will be difficult. My major concern, as second ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, is our troops. We have an opportunity to do something right now with our troops, help them to be funded. I think this offer from the House is good. I opposed the last three that came over. This one I am supporting. Why? Because not only does it have cuts—and it is also only 7 days, and I understand that—but it takes the innocent defense and all of our troops there in harm's way out from under all this foolishness going on on the floor of the Senate now and funds them through the rest of the fiscal year. It funds them at a low level.

With all the high spending coming out of the Obama administration, DOD funding has remained level, while the rest of the funding has averaged an increase of 25 percent. So they have already taken a hit. Let's at least make

sure we can make the payroll, that we can support our troops and, to do that, we can take up the House bill and pass it. It is only for 7 days. If somebody doesn't like it, they can try something else. It takes care of our military.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I agree with my colleague from Oklahoma. I don't think there is a single Senator in this Chamber who doesn't recognize that we have to deal with the debt and the deficit this country is facing. But the reality is that we are not going to deal with that on the 12 percent of the budget that is nondefense discretionary spending. We have to look at mandatory spending and tax reform, and we need to do it in a thoughtful way that recognizes that we need to invest in our future and make the cuts where we can do it, without harming the future of this country.

Mr. President, I am really sad that we are here at the eleventh hour on the floor of the Senate looking at a probable government shutdown at midnight tonight. It didn't have to be this way. I was disappointed to read accounts of some of our colleagues in the other Chamber, on the other side of the Capitol, who were literally applauding when they were told that a government shutdown was coming. The people of my State of New Hampshire are not applauding. They don't want a shutdown because they know that a shutdown of the Federal Government is bad for the country, bad for the economy, and it is bad for the people of New Hampshire.

Let me begin by going over some of what is going to happen in New Hampshire if the government shuts down. I have spoken before about companies in my home State of New Hampshire who are affected by our inability to get a budget done—companies such as Velcro USA. I think we all know what Velcro is. I am proud to say it is produced in New Hampshire, and it was invented there. The United States military is a major customer for Velcro. It is a major customer of the company, Velcro USA, because Velcro is used in soldiers' uniforms and equipment. Normally, the government is a steady customer of Velcro USA, but now they have been waiting for months for us in Congress to pass a full-year funding bill for the government. A shutdown will mean increased uncertainty for the company and for the hundreds of employees who work there.

We heard from another company in my home State, a small, innovative, high-tech company which has said even the smallest shutdown is going to have dire effects. They said they would lose 95 percent of their revenue if we have a shutdown. This is a small business that has about 45 employees, but it is a